

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 12-20 are pending in the application.

Independent claims 1 and 9 have now been amended, and new claims 21 and 22 have now been added. Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration in light of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2, 9-10, 15-17 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartman, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,444,780) in view of Fruehauf et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,590,981) and further in view of Sinha et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,944,188). Claim 4 was rejected under 36 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartman in view of Fruehauf and Sinha, and in further in view of Crane et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,510,236). Claims 5-8 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartman in view of Fruehauf and Sinha, and further in view of Kara (U.S. Patent No. 5,982,506). Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartman in view of Fruehauf, Sinha and Crane, and further in view of Friedman et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0019933).

Independent claim 1 of the present application has now been amended so as to recite

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identifying, by the central system based on the received identifier uniquely assigned to the network user, one of the plurality of clock systems thereof uniquely assigned to the network user;

...

Independent claim 9 of the present application has now been amended so as to recite

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the central system further configured to identify, based on the received identifier uniquely assigned to the network user, one of the plurality of clock systems thereof uniquely assigned to the network user;

...

Support for the amendment to claims 1 and 9 may be found, for example, at paragraphs [0012], [0014], [0033] and [0034] of the specification as filed. It is respectfully submitted that now new matter has been added.

It is respectfully submitted that Hartman, Fruehauf, and Sinha, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the above recited features of claims 1 and 9. Specifically, neither Hartman nor Sinha disclose or suggest identifying, based on the received identifier uniquely assigned to the network user, one of the plurality of clock systems thereof uniquely assigned to the network user, as recited in claims 1 and 9 as amended. In contrast, Sinha merely describes a system of master-slave clock pairs wherein the slave clocks of Customer Premise Equipment (CPE; i.e., user equipment) are synchronized with the corresponding master clocks over time-division multiplexed links where each user (CPE) equipment is allotted a unique time slot. See Sinha at Col. 5, ll. 51-67, Col. 7, l. 67 -- Col. 8, l. 3, and Col. 8, ll. 46-58. Sinha nowhere describes identifying one of the plurality of clock systems uniquely assigned to the network user based on a received unique identifier assigned to the user, as required by claims 1 and 9. Nor would there have been any reason to provide Sinha with the identifying feature recited in claims 1 and 9 since the master clock in each master-slave clock pair of Sinha receives transmissions only from its corresponding slave via the respective unique time slot so no identifying of one of a plurality of clocks systems would be needed. Nor do either of Hartman or Fruehauf make up for the deficiencies of Sinha. Accordingly, a combination of Hartman, Fruehauf, and Sinha, to the extent proper, could not render independent claims 1 and 9, or their respective dependent claims obvious.

Regarding Crane, Friedman, and Kara, it is respectfully submitted that these references singly or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the above-recited features of independent claims 1 and 9 missing from a combination of Hartman, Friedman, and Sinha. It is respectfully

submitted that respective combinations of Hartman, Fruehauf, Sinha, Crane, Friedman, and Kara, to the extent proper, could not render independent claims 1 and 9 nor their respective dependent claims 2, 4-8, 10, and 12-20 obvious.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the respective rejection of claims 1-2, 4-10, and 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on respective combinations of Hartman, Fruehauf, Sinha, Crane, Friedman, and Kara is respectfully requested.

New claims

New dependent claims 21 and 22 have now been added. New claim 21 recites “determining, by the central system, the location of the network user based on an identifier uniquely assigned to the network user.” New claim 22 recites similar features. Support for new claims 21 and 22 may be found, for example, at paragraph [0016] of the specification as filed. New claims 21 and 22 depend from claims 1 and 9, respectively, and are therefore patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 9 are. It is respectfully that none of the cited reference teaches or suggests the features of new claims 21 and 22, and that these claims are patentable over the cited references for this additional reason.

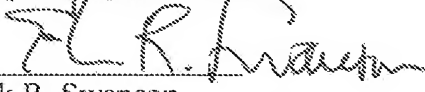
Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 12-1216.

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Respectfully submitted,

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